

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07103 212014Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----001651 212120Z /63
P 211332Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7313

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PASS COMMERCE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, JA, US
SUBJECT: GOJ PERCEPTION OF TRADE FACILITATION
. COMMITTEE

REF: (A) STATE 97949, (B) TOKYO 6325

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN CARRYING ON CONVERSATIONS
AT VARIOUS LEVELS AT VARIOUS MINISTRIES ABOUT
HOW TO HANDLE TFC CASES IN WHICH MITI ASSISTANCE
MAY BE EITHER UNHELPFUL OR COUNTER PRODUCTIVE.
MITI IS NOT THE MOST BELOVED AGENCY IN GOJ
BUREAUCRACY AND MANY WORKING LEVEL BUREAUCRATS
IN OTHER MINISTRIES BEAR SCARS FROM PREVIOUS
BATTLES WITH MITI.

2. HANAOKA AND MITI WOULD LIKE TO HAVE USHIBA
OBTAIN CABINET DECISION PLACING EXPANDED POWERS
IN MITI'S HANDS TO RESOLVE ALL TFC CASES. WE
THINK THIS IS UNLIKELY.

3. E/CMIN MET APRIL 20 WITH NAKAHIRA, SPECIAL
ASSISTANT TO MINISTER USHIBA, AND OSHIMA,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MOFA'S SECOND
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NORTH AMERICA DIVISION, FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.
NAKAHIRA SAID USHIBA'S OFFICE RECOGNIZES THAT
GOJ HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPER IMPLE-
MENTATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF TFC AND
REALIZES THAT SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE. HE
PROMISED TO BRING MATTER TO USHIBA'S ATTENTION
IN ORDER TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO GET BUREAU-

CRATIC TANGLE UNSNARLED BEFORE USHIBA LEAVES
FOR WASHINGTON WITH PRIME MINISTER.

4. WE SHOULD BE GRATIFIED THAT USHIBA'S OFFICE
UNDERSTANDS THAT A PROBLEM EXISTS. HOWEVER,
GOJ DOES NOT OPERATE AS CRISPLY AS USG MIGHT IN
COMPARABLE SITUATION. EVEN A SPECIFIC DIRECTIVE
BY PRIME MINISTER WOULD HAVE LIMITED TEMPORARY
EFFECT UNLESS PERCEPTION OF NATIONAL INTEREST
GETS HOME TO THE VARIOUS BUREAUCRATS WHO WILL
IN PRACTICE BE ADMINISTERING THE ARRANGEMENTS.
WE STRESSED THAT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WE
HOPED GOJ WOULD DECIDE AT LEAST WHERE OUR
INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE DEPOSITED.

5. MEANWHILE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP DIRECTLY
THROUGH MOFA AND COMPETENT MINISTRIES ON TFC
CASES WHERE MITI IS UNABLE TO PRODUCE RESULTS.
IT HAS IN ANY CASE BEEN OUR PRACTICE TO DO
PRELIMINARY SPADE WORK WITH RELEVANT WORKING-
LEVEL OFFICIALS BEFORE MAKING FORMAL TFC
SUBMISSION.
MANSFIELD

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